GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1566
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
PRESERVATION OF LANGUAGES
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of languages presently included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to salvage the minor languages from possible extinction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) : The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of 22 languages viz. (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Bodo, (4) Dogri, (5) Gujarati, (6) Hindi, (7) Kannada, (8) Kashmiri, (9) Konkani, (10) Maithili, (11) Malayalam, (12) Manipuri, (13) Marathi, (14) Nepali, (15) Oriya, (16) Punjabi, (17) Sanskrit, (18) Santhali, (19) Sindhi, (20) Tamil, (21) Telugu, (22) Urdu.

(b) to (d): Sahitya Akademi under the Ministry of Culture has established a language Development Board to advise the Akademi in implementing literary programmes in the languages that are not recognized by it. (the Akademi has recognized 24 languages - 22 languages as enumerated in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India, Rajasthani and English as written by Indians). The programmes include seminars, workshops, publishing of books in such languages etc. Literary pieces from such languages are published in the Akademi's two bi-monthly journals, one in English "Indian Literature" and the other in Hindi "Samkaleen Bhartiya Sahitya" as well. The Sahitya Akademi has established a project office to promote oral and tribal Literature. The Akademi has published 16 books in the unrecognized languages. The Akademi also awards Bhasha Samman annually to writers/scholars in recognition of their contribution to languages that are not recognized by the Akademi.

The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) is implementing several projects for development of languages which are not included in the Eighth Schedule.